



Our House

Our Marks

Romans 12:1-2

Week 34
August 31, 2025

LIFE LESSON:

What you believe will directly impact how you live, so train your mind with a Biblical worldview so that we live lives honoring to God in all situations.

I. VV. 1-2

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. ²Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. (CSB) (I will be using other translations throughout this lesson, so I put the CSB passage here for your reference.)

It is worth noting that the Apostle Paul tells his readers to be transformed not by giving more money or by going to church more often but by renewing their mind. The body and mind are to be a part of our Christian life and if one's faith is going to be strong and effective they must be transformed from the world by changing the way they think and see the world. There is no need in debating which one is most important, the body, or the mind in the Christian life because they both serve a vital purpose. A body that serves physically without a mind can run the risk of legalism or doing what is contrary to scripture. With the mind one can study to find what God would have them do and then do it properly. Building the intellect without putting the knowledge to work leads to pride and elitism. Both extremes are contrary to scripture and do not honor God. For our purposes we are going to focus on the renewing of the mind. Paul shows that the opposite of being conformed to this world's way of thinking is being

transformed from the world by gaining a new way of thinking. J.B. Phillips paraphrases Romans 12:2 this way, "Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity." The worldview of the Christian is not to be the same as the view the world system holds which is contrary to God. James 4:4 reads, "Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." The world's system leans toward man being the ultimate being whereas scripture points to God as being Lord of all. The Greek word Paul uses for "world" is *aion* which is the same word he uses in 2 Corinthians 4 that is translated "age" in the NKJV. 2 Corinthians 4:4 says, "whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." (Italics added) The world system referred to is a system of an age or system that has been impacted by the fall of man and has also been deceived by Satan. For a Christian to get out of this age's system a couple of things must take place. First, they must be "transformed." The Greek word for "transformed" is *metamorphoo*. John MacArthur comments on this word this way, "The Greek verb (*metamorphoo*) connotes change in outward appearance and is the term from which we get the English *metamorphosis*." Paul is showing that the outward lives of believers should be different from those who do not follow Christ. How does this outward change take place? It takes place by renewing the mind of the believer. The believer must take on a new way of seeing and thinking about the world and all the world's issues. Mounce said, "A renewed mind is concerned with those issues of life that are of lasting importance. By nature, our thoughts tend to dwell on the temporary. But that which passes quickly is normally inconsequential." Mounce then uses 2 Corinthians 4:18 to support his statement which says, "...while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." The eternal matters are the issues related to God and His Kingdom. These are the

areas Christian minds are to be focused towards because believers in Christ are dead to this world and alive to God. Colossians 3:1-3 reads, "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." The renewal of the mind leads to a new worldview as previously mentioned. "Worldview as a concept has a rich and elaborate history. The term itself is a translation from the German *Weltanschauung* and was first used by Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), but only in passing. In German Idealism and Romanticism, it was used widely 'to denote a set of beliefs that underlie and shape all human thought and action.' But it was Wilhelm Dilthey (1833-1911) who first used it as a major focus." Philosophers hold that a person's worldview is what they believe regarding life's most important questions. These questions involve where we came from, why are we here, how are we to carry out our purpose, and where are we going after we die? The way a person answers these questions will determine how they live their life. If they believe they are from God, for God, and headed to God then ultimate purpose and consequence will dictate their path. It is toward this way of thinking that our minds are to be renewed. Harrison said, the "renewing of your mind seems to mean that the believer is to keep going back in this thought to the original commitment, reaffirming its necessity and legitimacy in the light of the grace of God extended to him." Taking Romans 12:1-2 in its context shows readers that people who are Christ followers are to be changed from their old way of acting to a new way of conducting themselves. 1 John 2:6 reads, "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." This process is aided by the training of the mind toward the things of God and away from the world. A Christian mind should be focused on the things Christ's mind was focused on. Philippians 2:5 says, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus" Therefore, a Christian is to study the things of Christ so that they can begin to see the world as Christ sees it. This in turn will impact the outward behavior of the believer. It is the inward man that needs to be cleaned up and changed because it is inside a man that he is the filthiest. Jeremiah 17:9 declares, "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked, Who can

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. In way of your thinking and beliefs, it may be evident that you believe in God but let's take it a step further and ask ourselves if we believe God. Do you believe that whatever is in scripture is true and if not, what are some areas you struggle to believe?

2. How much time do you spend training your mind for the things of God? Whether it be through reading the Bible or trustworthy books on the Bible or listening to sermons, etc....?

3. What are some areas of your thought life and worldview that you believe needs to be transformed and what will you do to work on those?

know it?" An inward change is the quickest route to an outward change.

When we think of the life change that comes along with Christianity, we might picture a change in behavior and attitude. Maybe there were some outward signs in our lives that needed to pass away or the way we talked and responded to certain situations did not help our testimonies very much. It is a Biblical truth that our behavior will change once we are saved. We will see sins begin to fall to the wayside even though we will wrestle with them until we enter eternity, but they will not define who we are any longer. However, the biggest change we must see as a believer is the way we think and believe. Our minds and the way we view the world from a Biblical perspective will drive our behavior and responses. Training our spiritual minds will impact our spiritual lives and the way we act emotionally and physically. So it is of most importance that we spend time in God's word and around His people to develop a mind that is renewed for Christ so that we will think differently about, God, ourselves and the world.